

City of Lawrence

Transportation Commission

September 11, 2017 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Hamby, Chris Storm, Steve Evans, Erin Paden, Michele Dillon, Jeff Severin, Kathryn Schartz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charlie Bryan, Ron May, Mark Hurt, John Ziegelmeyer

STAFF PRESENT: David Cronin, Public Works Department
Charles Soules, Public Works Department
Jessica Mortinger, MPO
Nick Voss, Public Works Department
Zach Baker, Public Works Department
Abigail Bradshaw, Public Works Department
Aaron Roberts, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT:

A complete video recording of the meeting is available on the City's website at <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/transportation-commission/>

The meeting was called to order by Chris Storm at 6:05 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

[Approve of August 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

Moved by Commissioner Schartz, second by Commissioner Hamby, to approve minutes. The motion carried, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 2:

[General Public Comment](#)

Public Discussion:

None

ITEM NO. 3:

[Disabled Parking Request – 1909 Edgelea Rd.](#)

Staff Presentation:

Zach Baker gave a presentation on a disabled parking request on 1909 Edgelea Rd. The request was received in April of 2017. Edgelea Rd. is a local street with 30 mile an hour speed limit. It is not a safe route to school. It is not a bus transit route. It's not on the Lawrence-Douglas County bike way plan, and there is no sidewalk on this on both sides of the street. It's a residential area with asphalt pavement width of approximately 26 feet wide and has curb and gutter for drainage. It has on street parking only on the west side of the street. The request would allow for a 6-year-old disabled girl to have a place close to her house. City staff is recommending the approval of adding reserved parking. The city of Lawrence does have a history of having these spaces allowed. We have received some feedback from people requesting denial of this request. Most of the reasons cite that the requester has a lot of cars, and there is not a lot of on street parking available.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner David Hamby asked if city staff was making a recommendation for approval for one spot or two spots.

Zach Baker said the staff was recommending two spaces.

Commissioner Jeff Severin asked about the locations of the other reserved spaces in residential areas.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked about the locations of the other reserved spaces in residential areas.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that Overland Drive had similar reserved spaces.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked how it was enforced.

Zach Baker stated that it would be enforced by the police department.

Commissioner Steve Evans said that this could set up a scenario that was neighbors verses neighbors

Zach Baker stated that some feedback received stated that the street was for public parking.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked about code requirements.

David Cronin stated that the code would not include reserved parking.

Public Discussion:

Leanna Scott spoke opposed to restricted parking due to that the residences do not currently use the driveway. She also stated that the residences use three cars. She asked about how the process for a requested reserved spot would work moving forward.

David Cronin stated that the Transportation Commission will make a recommendation to the City Commission who would approve or deny the request.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Erin Paden asked about the city code for a car parked on the road without moving.

David Cronin stated it was 48 hours.

Commissioner Chris Strom stated that the commission can reduce the scope of the request but not expand on it.

Commissioner Erin Paden stated that it was complicated because the commission did not have information on why the requester does not park in their driveway.

Commissioner Jeff Severn said that it is challenging to allow the request with off street parking available.

Commissioner Chris Storm stated that the owner could have a wider driveway.

Commissioner Erin Paden stated that the requester was a renter and a driveway would need to be installed by the property owner.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that he would support a request for on reserved spot.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that he would support one spot.

Commissioner Michelle Dillion stated that it could allow for easier pick up for the bus.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that the bus would still be able to operate and asked if the requesters child used a mobility device for assistance.

Leanna Scott stated that she did not use a mobility device.

Commissioner Erin Paden wanted more information on how the requestor utilized their cars.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that this was a neighborhood issue.

Commissioner Steve Evens asked if the item should be deferred.

David Cronin stated that it could be deferred if more information is needed.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked if the existing handicap parking spaces are revisited.

David Cronin stated that he did not know.

Commissioner Erin Paden asked if the vehicle would need to be moved every 48 hours.

David Cronin stated that the parking code would be followed.

[Moved by Commissioner Dillon, second by Commissioner Hurt](#), to deny the request for disabled parking. The motion carried, 6-1.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that he felt that the request was reasonable.

ITEM NO. 4:

[Traffic Calming: Rockledge 6th to 9th St.](#)

Staff Presentation:

Zach Baker gave a presentation on a request for traffic calming on Rockledge Road from 6th to 9th Street. The request was received in May 2017. Traffic Data was collected in September of 2016 with counts that were previously taken. Rockledge Road is a collector, is not on a safe route, is on a bus route, is on a proposed bike route, and has sidewalk along the east side. The 85th % speed is 36 mph and 40 mph at the locations studied. Traffic volumes did not meet the criteria to recommend traffic calming. The 85% speed did meet the criteria for traffic calming.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Chris Storm asked about crash data.

Zach Baker stated that crash data had not been collected.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked how many speed bumps would need to be installed.

David Cronin stated that the length and spacing would be looked at. Three or four speed bumps would likely be used.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked about the profile differences used.

David Cronin stated that public works receives comments about speed bumps being too high and not high enough.

Nick Voss stated that the speed bumps were installed to allow for all vehicles to traverse.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that they have limited value for the cost to install. He asked about the PCI rating.

David Cronin stated that the projects can be included with a traffic calming project with the existing budget.

Commissioner Chris Strom stated that this one would be a speed cushion.

David Cronin stated that the speed cushions on Lawrence Ave are effective. If approved the traffic calming device would be selected with input from the neighborhood.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked if traffic was calmed on this street would it push traffic onto other streets.

Zach Baker said that it may but some may be moved to Iowa Street.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked if stop signs would be appropriate.

David Cronin stated that crash history and traffic volumes would be used to determine if stop signs were appropriate. He does not anticipate that all way stops would meet appropriate warrants.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that stop signs are not used for speed control.

Public Discussion:

Clint Idle requested this on behalf of the neighborhood association. He stated that the park and skate park generate pedestrians. He stated that traffic calming could create awareness and could slow drivers down. In April about 80% approved traffic calming according to a poll conducted.

Mariona Nieto spoke in support of the project. She stated that a lot of kid used the park, and people walk their dogs. She stated that traffic moved to fast on this section of road.

Commissioner David Hamby spoke in support of the traffic calming and stated that a pedestrian refuge island may be appropriate.

Commissioner Erin Paden stated that traffic calming could make the park more accessible.

[Moved by Commissioner Hamby, second by Commissioner Paden](#), to recommend traffic calming on Rockledge Road from 6th to 9th Street. The motion carried, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 5:

[Crosswalk request, Louisiana Street 27th to 31st Street](#)

Staff Presentation:

Zach Baker stated that Louisiana Street is an arterial street, is on a safe route to school, it has a 30 mph speed limit, is not a bus route, is an approved bike route, in a residential area with an elementary school and park. The 85th percentile speed for this section is 40 mph. There are a lot of pedestrians in the area so staff is recommending the installation of a crosswalk.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that he supports this and traffic could increase with the construction of 31st Street.

Zach Baker presented additional data on excessive speed.

David Cronin stated that speed bumps have not been used on arterials but the pedestrian medians are used on Louisiana Street.

Commissioner Michelle Dillon stated that she supports this and traffic is increasing in this area.

Commissioner Jeff Severin stated that a crossing would be helpful for connection between the neighborhood and the park / South Lawrence Traffic way.

David Cronin discussed the use of a signalized pedestrian crossing.

Commissioner Kathryn Schartz stated that she supports the request. She cited the connection of the South Lawrence Traffic way.

Commissioner Chris Strom asked about the staff recommendation.

David Cronin said that his recommendation was for this location and that a bike crossing would be an additional discussion that could be addressed separately. He stated that this would be prioritized by the bike project criteria being developed.

[Moved by Commissioner Sevrin, second by Commissioner Dillon,](#) to recommend installing a crosswalk at the intersection identified by staff. The motion carried, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 6:

[Staff Items:](#)

David Cronin stated that study sessions will be recorded and made publicly available. The September 14th study session meeting is a draft of the bike and pedestrian prioritization for projects.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that the meetings should be held to benefit the commission and that public comment should be more structured.

ITEM NO. 7:

Commission Items:

[Update on Complete Streets sub-committee](#)

Commissioner Steve Evans gave an update on what the Complete Streets sub-committee had discussed at their meeting. The sub-committee begun by looking at policy. They are now looking at the process for evaluate complete streets.

ITEM NO. 8:

[Calendar](#)

September 13th Regional SRTS Summit – 9am – 3pm

September 21st – Mark Fenton SRTS Town Hall – 7pm @ Liberty Hall

ITEM NO. 9:

Adjournment

[Moved by Commissioner Hamby second by Commissioner Dillon](#), to adjourn at 7:55pm.
The motion carried, 7-0.

Transportation Commission Study Session

Ped Bike Prioritization Draft presented by staff and discussed.